



The

BRITISH LUTHERAN

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Key Words: HOPE	2
2. The Smalcald Articles ...	3
3. Faith at Work: An Actor .	4
4. Taff to Tyne	6
5. News	8
6. Church Extension Fund ...	11
7. Question and Answer	12

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INFORMATION, ARTICLES, ANNOUNCEMENTS

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Earth-born Hopes are Deceiving

"Hope is like a lottery in which there are a hundred blanks for every prize." So the saying goes because the longings which arise in people when they fall in love, decide to emigrate, or change occupations, are rarely realized. The marriage partner may be a good one, the new country wonderful, the new job interesting; but something has evaded them.

The "fool" puts the blame on the things themselves, and goes on all his life thinking if he tried once more he would find the mysterious something he is after. And so he spends his life trotting from marriage to marriage, from country to country, from job to job, always thinking the latest will be "the real thing" - and always is disappointed. His hopes are earth-born and earth-bound.

Heaven-born Hopes are Sure

The Christian knows there is perfect happiness, that it is in heaven and waiting for him, and that God wants him to keep on anticipating it; realizing, however, that its ultimate is never attained on this earth (I Cor. 15:19; Col. 3:1-4). His continual looking forward to Eternal Life in heaven is not escapism or wishful thinking. Nor does this mean that he is to leave this world. In fact, it gives him a real goal to live for in this world (Phil. 1:20-26). It is because "Christians" have ceased to think of the other world that "Christianity" has become so ineffective in this. "Aim at heaven and you get happiness on earth thrown in; aim at earth and you will get neither" (Matt. 6:19-34, C. S. Lewis). The Christian hope of heaven is no gamble; it stands on the fact of Christ's resurrection (I Pet. 1:2-5). In Christ we already possess it, and in heaven will experience its full glory (I John 3:1-3).

The Smalcald Articles

The future looked dark for the Lutherans in 1531. Their request for a free conference which would openly consider their teachings and objections was met with the imperial threat: six months of grace and then armies would be used to bring them back into the Roman church. To defend themselves, the Lutheran princes organized the League of Smalcald, an alliance which, in 1533, turned down the application of Henry VIII of England because he would not subscribe to the Augsburg Confession.

It was this League which in 1537 adopted as their common confession the Smalcald Articles. Pope Paul III had finally agreed to convene a general council at Mantua in May, 1537. Its purpose: "the utter extirpation of the poisonous, pestilential Lutheran heresy". At the request of the League, Martin Luther drew up the Smalcald Articles as a concise statement of Lutheran doctrine against the claims and errors of the Roman papacy.

The Smalcald Articles are, besides the Small and Large Catechisms, which are not confessions in the strict sense of the word, the only confession of our Church written by Luther himself. They breathe the characteristic warmth and vigour of Luther.

The first section of the Smalcald Articles states there is no disagreement with Rome on the doctrine of the Trinity. In the second part, Luther shows how the heart of the Gospel, justification by faith in Christ, is nullified by the Roman doctrine of the Mass, repudiates the Papacy, and says of monasteries that they should either be changed into educational institutions or be closed. Part Three deals with the doctrine of sin, law, the means of grace, etc. Luther concludes: "These are the articles on which I must stand and, God willing, shall stand even to my death".

My Faith at Work

by

AN ACTOR



RICHARD DENNING

American Screen, Radio
and Television Star
at ABC Elstree Studios

"We cannot leave you much in the way of wordly goods, but with God's help your mother and I have tried to bring you up in the true Christian faith. This is your greatest heritage. Guard and protect this treasure - and share it with others".

How often my 15-year old daughter hears me repeat to her what my father told me when I was a boy! My wife and I pray that our Diana will pass on to her children what we both know is our greatest treasure.

A Power to Use

The life of an actor is full of challenges and temptations to one's Christian faith. Irregular working hours, sometimes long periods of unemployment, and then continuous and highly-concentrated schedules with no time for family or social life; association with people of varying moral and religious standards, intellectuals and near-illiterates, alcoholics and psychotics. Without going into detail, the special dangers of our profession to an actor's faith, his church and his family should be obvious.

We have found in the seventeen years of our marriage that faith in our Lord and Saviour is a power that

sustains if only we use it. When we find our lives becoming clouded with unhappiness, business reverses, career doldrums, ill health or even family squabbles, we discover that somehow we have become negligent in our faith. Perhaps we've been "too busy" for regular church attendance; "too social" to properly practice Christian living; or even a little careless in choosing our friends. Then we suddenly realize we've been trying to live on our own - without God. But in His mercy He has so many ways of reminding us to turn back and realize anew our faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Guide. He is always merciful, grants us forgiveness, and restores us to the true faith.

A Heritage to Share

Just before we left for filming in England, our home church in Beverly Hills, California, conducted a "Preaching, Teaching, Reaching Mission". What a thrill for us to discover as we went from door to door that people were interested in our faith, looking for something to cling to, searching for a Saviour! Should we not help them, tell them of that great love, that tremendous sacrifice! Put your faith to work and let others know the happiness and peace you enjoy through faith in Christ.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard Denning, member of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church of Beverly Hills, California, is with his family a regular worshipper at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Borehamwood. He has just completed the telefilm series, "Flying Doctor", in which he plays the title role. One of Hollywood's busiest and most versatile actors, he has played important roles in over 125 feature motion pictures and in an equally impressive list of radio, stage and television plays.

BOREHAMWOOD The Rev. B.H. Jackayya, General Secretary of India Evangelical Lutheran Church, preacher at evening service 6 September... after holiday break of several weeks, youth club resumes under able direction of Peter Crawley ... first Autumn film, "Reaching from Heaven", draws 90 viewers.

TOTTENHAM Planned parish programme for 1959-60, discussed and approved by the Voters' Assembly, projects visitation of delinquent members by pastor and elders and of lapsed SS children by teachers (October), every-member-visit (November), and Preaching-Teaching-Reaching Mission (February) ... volunteers busy each Saturday re-painting church exterior ... Ladies' Guild successful collection of clothing and shoes for Hungary ... 45 children and parents enjoyed outing to Ken Wood on 26 September ... Harvest Festival donations given to Mayor of Tottenham's Distress Fund.

CAMBRIDGE Harvest Festival at St. Michaels on 27 September drew 54, the offering going to the Home for Unmarried Mothers ... 62 worshippers at Lakenheath on 4 October pledged over £600 toward expenses of additional pastor to allow Pastor Nagel to concentrate on his Ph.D. research ... Jonathan Cremer and James Burrows at Cambridge and Lothar Thoelke at London University now preparing for the Lutheran ministry.

HARLOW Harlow Development Corporation approve plans for church and parsonage, also temporary hall ... Harlow architects express delight, unofficially, with the bold design ... temporary hut, 40'x20', promised ready for 1 November Christian Film Festival opening ... two weeks of films planned with showings every night and extra matinee "family" performances ... Pastor Hennig and family living at 64, Waterhouse Moor, Harlow.

KENTISH TOWN The Mayor and Mayoress of St. Pancras plus three members of the Borough Council were guests of honour on 4 October at the Harvest Festival ... after the service 135 worshippers heard the Mayor speak on "The World Refugee year", to which cause the £45 offering was donated ... in the same service, Victor Okon, son of Nigerian Lutheran Mr. and Mrs. Inyang, and Jo Ann Ruth, daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Heintz, were baptized ... following two training meetings, five two-person teams visited homes of SS and Holiday Bible School children.

CARDIFF Architect's plans for church and parsonage almost ready for final approval of Cardiff Corporation ... temporary hall ready by mid-November ... growing attendance at services and Sunday School.

SUNDERLAND Eight adults confirmed on 18 Sept. at St. Timothys ... of these, four contacted through the Lutheran Hour, two through last Autumn's film showings ... at the following banquet of welcome, the new members were presented with a Bible or hymnal, a prayer book and a lapel cross ... new adult class to be formed after the new film series, 26-30 October ... confirmed three years, Mrs. Georgina Simpson, eldest communicant, died at the age of 78.

PETTS WOOD Received into communicant membership: one adult by Baptism on 27 September and second class of teenagers by Confirmation on 11 October ... Bible Class, studying "The Life of Christ", spends one evening on questions raised by the participants on the sinless nature of Christ, the "last trump", chiliasm ... planned parish programme for 1959-60 emphasizes "Scriptures" in September and "Church" in October ... youth conduct their own devotions for Luther Society meetings.

ST. ANDREWS READY FOR GROUND-BREAKING

Tenders for the new St. Andrews Lutheran Church at Ruislip will be in by 19 October, the ground-breaking ceremony will take place in the middle of November, and the £19,000 building will take nine months to build, according to Architects Bader and Miller. The new church is to be "one of the most striking and modern churches in the country", the Ruislip Post said recently.

St. Andrews members have pledged to raise £800 in gifts before completion date, two special Building Fund Sundays have been set aside, and collecting boxes have been placed into every home. A series of four films are being shown during October at a public hall near the site of the new building.

LADIES TO RALLY AT PETTS WOOD

A rally of ladies from ELCE congregations in the London area will take place at Petts Wood Memorial Hall on Sunday, 22 November, beginning at 4.30 p.m., according to plans made at the Lutheran Building by representatives on 23 September. The meeting, which will include fellowship activity and Bible study, will also provide opportunity to hear and discuss plans submitted by a temporary committee for the formation of a national women's organization within the Church, as approved by the 1959 Synod. Mrs. G. Barker of Petts Wood is the Acting Chairman of the committee.

LONDON PASTORS PROMISE SUPPORT FOR HARLOW OPENING

London congregations and missions will provide the necessary helpers for the 14-night Christian Film Festival which will launch the Lutheran mission at Harlow. Each congregation will be responsible for two nights. This was the outcome of a meeting of the seven London area pastors on 11 October.

STOP PRESS NEWS: HARLOW OPENING POSTPONED TO 15 NOVEMBER DUE LATE DELIVERY OF TEMPORARY BUILDING

LUTHER-TYNDALE ADOPTS "CHURCH NIGHT"

"One night a week for your church" was the theme of Messrs. Harry Smith and Emmanuel Lutz as they spoke to Luther-Tyndale Congregation after service on 20 Sept. The "Church Night" programme attempts in a congregation whose members are dispersed all over Metropolitan London to concentrate all church activities into one night per week. All meetings of youth clubs, Ladies Guild, congregational committees, Voters Assembly, Choir, Bible Class, and neighbourhood visitation will take place in one of the two "Church Night" periods beginning at 6.45 and 8.15 on Thursday nights. With only a single weekday journey to the church, every member will be able to participate in two phases of the church's programme.

COUNCIL APPROVES SECOND PASTOR FOR CAMBRIDGE

The appointment for one year of a second pastor for ELCE work in the Cambridge area was agreed by the Executive Council after long discussion in two meetings on 6 and 13 October. Mr. Rudolph Blank, a St. Louis Concordia graduate now in Europe, will, if he accepts the appointment, relieve Pastor N. Nagel, now in the final year of his Luther research at the University, of responsibility for services held in the Cambridge area. Mr. Nagel was authorized to seek a centrally-located 6-8 bedroomed freehold property in its own grounds for tutor's residence and library until larger accommodation is needed.

The Council also approved progress reports on four building projects at Ruislip, Harlow, Grindon and Cardiff, all of them nearing construction stage.

PASTORS DISCUSS FAITH HEALING

Faith healing and the ceremonial laying on of hands were subjects discussed by ELCE pastors at their pastoral conference at the Lutheran Building from 12-13 October. Pastor Brannmeier of Cardiff led the conference in a study of Revelation 2.

PEARCE FAMILY RETURNS AFTER FURLOUGH

"All over the United States and Canada, there is a tremendous interest and support for our work in England", ELCE Chairman E. Geo. Pearce said on his return to this country. Pastor Pearce and family arrived at Southampton off the SS Rotterdam on 29 September after three months' furlough and an additional month for conference travel. He described the work of the ELCE to the Convention of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod at San Francisco in June where he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity by the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He also addressed conventions of the Lutheran Laymen's League in Buffalo and of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in Toronto in July. "Wherever I spoke or preached - and I preached on an average twice every Sunday but two - people showed surprising knowledge and eager approval of our English work", Pastor Pearce reported.

All ELCE pastors and their wives gathered at the home of Misses Marie and Charlotte Lawton on Monday evening, 12 October, to welcome the Pearces home.

CANADIAN CONGREGATIONS TO SUPPORT ELCE

Lutheran congregations in the Canadian Province of Ontario will take a special Reformation Festival collection for the work of the ELCE. This was the resolution of the Ontario District Pastoral Conference held in August at Sudbury, according to a letter received from the Rev. H. H. Erdmann, the Executive Secretary of the Ontario District. This special annual collection parallels that of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia.

CALL FOR 1960 SYNOD RESOLUTIONS

All ELCE congregations, boards and other eligible bodies are asked to give early consideration to resolutions which they intend to submit for debate to the 1960 Synod. Such resolutions should be sent to the Secretary at 42, Museum Street, London, W.C.1.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

LOANS AND DONATIONS

(Receipts to 30 September)



	<u>Loans</u>	<u>Donations</u>
KENTISH TOWN	£4295	£ 72
TOTTENHAM	1461	15
RUISLIP	432	14
SUNDERLAND	24	2
PETTS WOOD	11	54
BROMLEY	14	0
BOREHAMWOOD	3	6
GRINDON	55	9
CARDIFF	507	0
CAMBRIDGE	530	0
OTHERS	357	294
Totals	£7689	£466
Grand Total		£8155

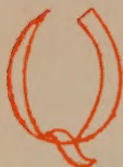
... OUR GOAL: EVERY MEMBER A REGULAR INVESTOR ...

MEMORIAL WREATHS

In loving memory of her husband, August Lange; of her father, William Aichroth Sr.; of Mrs. Anna Dunsbier; of Mr. Louis Launer Sr.; from Mrs. E. Lange of Claresholm, Alberta: £100 for the Church Extension Fund.

In loving memory of her father, Harry Sidney Pearce, from Mrs. Gertrude Vikse of Edmonton, Alberta: £8 for the Church Extension Fund

In loving memory of their "Tante Emma" Arndt, from the Misses Ilse and Erna Arndt of St. Louis, Missouri: £5 for the Arndt Memorial Scholarship Fund.



IS IT RIGHT FOR A CHRISTIAN PASTOR TO
TURN DOWN THE REQUEST TO OFFICIATE AT
FUNERALS? SHOULD HE NOT SERVE WHENEVER
AND WHEREVER HE IS ASKED?

God neither prescribes nor forbids a
burial service. A Christian burial, how-
ever, performed according to a Christian ritual,
is a mark of honour. The honour is to be conferred
on those who by the confession of their lips and
lives gave evidence of the true Christian faith.
As military authorities grant a military funeral
to those only, who served in the armed forces,
so Christian honours should be granted only to
faithful soldiers of Jesus Christ.

Of non-believers Jesus bluntly says:
"Let the dead bury their dead" (Luke 9,60). For a
Christian pastor to officiate at the burial of one
who rejects Christ is contradictory and improper,
even though the service enables him to preach to
the living.

Ordinarily we officiate only at the funeral of
members of our church. We may also serve at the
burial of non-members who are under instruction or
our spiritual care. We may also grant Christian
burial to those who, like the thief on the cross,
turned to the Lord in their dying moments. Church
burial will do nothing for him who dies in his
sins. The time of grace is now.

(From The Lutheran Witness)

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